

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 2, 4, 7, and 8 being canceled, and Claims 1, 5, and 6 being amended. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the specification under 35 U.S.C. 132 for reasons of new matter introduced via adding of new Claim 8. This objection is moot in view of the canceled claim.

The Examiner rejected Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is moot in view of the canceled claim.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mackie Design 8-bus Mixers ("Reference U"). This rejection is moot with respect to canceled Claims 4 and 8, and respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

As previously communicated, the present invention is directed to a method and apparatus for signal processing, wherein a sound signal inputted into an apparatus, such as a digital mixing console, is monitored for any possible clipping or unacceptable level at multiple points of the signal path, wherein the clipping or unacceptable level may be caused by operations such as tone control or fader operation along a signal path before it is finally outputted from the apparatus. As also previously communicated, as illustrated in Fig. 2 of the present application, a sound signal is monitored at METER in 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3 for determining whether the input sound signal at each of the point exceeds a predetermined value that may have been caused by one of the devices/operations, and if so an alarm is displayed on a display device. Additionally, as reflected in the amended claims, a designating module is provided for a user to designate, for level monitoring, a particular one of the metering points. A level display shows the level of the input sound signal at

the designated one of metering point, and a second alarm display is provided on the displace device to show a second alarm in the event that the level of the input sound signal exceeds a predetermined level at the designated metering point. The claim amendments are supported by the specification at pages 11-12.

Reference U does not contain any disclosure or suggestion for designating one particular metering point from amongst a plurality of metering points, displaying the level of the input sound signal at the designated metering point, and providing a second alarm when the input sound signal exceeds a predetermined level. Rather, Reference U simply discloses an "OL" lighting LED if a signal level exceeds certain level at any point of three test points. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 3, and 6 are not anticipated by Reference U.

The Examiner rejected Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Sony Digital Audio Mixer DMX-R100 ("Reference V"). This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

As discussed above, the present invention as claimed by amended Claim 5 includes a designating module for a user to designate, for level monitoring, a particular one of the metering points. A level display shows the level of the input sound signal at the designated one of metering point, and a second alarm display is provided on the displace device to show a second alarm in the event that the level of the input sound signal exceeds a predetermined level at the designated metering point.

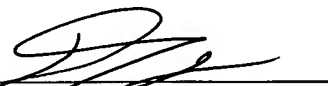
Similar to Reference U, Reference V does not contain any disclosure or suggestion for designating one particular metering point from amongst a plurality of metering points, displaying the level of the input sound signal at the designated metering point, and providing a second alarm

when the input sound signal exceeds a predetermined level. Rather, Reference V simply discloses monitoring an input signal at three portions of a signal path (specifically, the FIL(filter)" block, the "EQ(equalizer)" block, and the "DYN(dynamic)" block; see pg. 103a). The "OVER" indicator lights when the level of the input signal reach the clip level (see page. 11, right column, lines 22 and 23) along the signal path. Again, no teachings or suggestions are made as to designating and monitoring a specific metering point. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 5, amended, is not anticipated by Reference V.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below. In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 393032029800.

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